

or plateau. The "Grand Prairie," north-west from Okanagan Lake, is 16 miles long, and about 2 miles wide, bounded on either side by mountains, between which flows a river. It is in fact the piece of a valley, and would be called one, were it longer.

I need not mention names given to the high lands in British Columbia, as there is nothing peculiar in these names, except, perhaps, the term "bench," which is applied to the raised level spaces, or terraces, in some of the river-valleys. These terraces run at intervals along both sides of the rivers for miles in length; and they recede where the mountains retire, for distances back varying from a few acres to a few miles in breadth. They are objects of curiosity and speculation, and, from the regularity and evenness of their structure, add much to the beauty of the rude scenes in which they occur. They generally appear on both sides of the river, and in some places are multiplied into several successive level plateaux, rising one above the other as they recede from the bank.

### Transport and Travel.

#### VANCOUVER ISLAND.

There are no really navigable rivers nor trunk-roads in the island. Several district roads are good, particularly near Victoria. The sea is the main highway at present. A Government steamer goes weekly to Cowichan, Maple Bay, Admiral Island, Chemanis, and Nanaimo, and to Comox fortnightly. The rates of fare are as follows:—

From Victoria to—

Cowichan, Maple Bay, and Admiral Island, single ticket, two dollars and fifty cents (10s. English), return ditto, four dollars (16s. English).

Chemanis, single ticket, three dollars (12s. English), return ditto, five dollars (20s. English).

Nanaimo, single ticket, four dollars (16s. English), return ditto, six dollars and fifty cents (26s. English).

Comox, single ticket, six dollars (24s. English), return ditto, ten dollars (40s. English).

Breakfast and tea, 50 cents (2s. English) each meal; dinner, 75 cents (3s. English).

*Freight.*—To all places between Victoria and Nanaimo, three dollars (12s. English) per ton of forty feet.

From Victoria to Comox four dollars (16s. English) per ton.

All cattle to Cowichan, Maple Bay, and Admiral Island, three dollars (12s. English) per head.

To Chemanis, four dollars (16s. English); Nanaimo, five dollars (20s. English); and to Comox, six dollars (24s. English).

Small animals, such as calves, sheep, pigs, &c., from fifty cents (2s. English) to one dollar and fifty cents (6s. English).

*Mileage.*—From Victoria to Cowichan, 36 miles; thence to Maple Bay, 9 miles; thence to Admiral Island, 5 miles; thence to Chemanis, 7 miles; thence to Nanaimo, 22 miles; and thence to Comox, 55 miles.

\* Names of places in this Handbook are spelt as in the Map of the Province, 9th May, 1870, with additions January 1871.